

Testimony - Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

Reach Up Talking Points

March 29, 2017

Reach Up Coordination with WIOA

- As a mandatory partner within the WIOA plan, Reach Up administrative staff has participated in WIOA planning workgroups with VDOL
 - Planning around common intake, data-sharing, coordination of services, recruitment of Reach Up participants, training
- Local districts work together to coordinate services for Reach Up participants
 - Referrals (both directions)
 - Connect Reach Up participants to training and apprenticeship programs
 - Share schedules for job clubs, resume writing classes, etc.

Barriers to Employment

- Transportation
 - 36% of Reach Up participants have a transportation barrier
 - No license, no car, no access to public transportation, fines
- Childcare
 - Shortage of quality childcare for children under age 2
 - When childcare is available, even with a full childcare subsidy, participants usually still pay a co-pay; depending on the number of children and cost of care - \$50 to \$100 per **week**
 - Childcare hours/schedule do not always line up with work/training program
- Housing
 - Only 27% of families participating in Reach Up live in subsidized housing.
 - Grant for a family of three is around \$700
 - Approximately 160 homeless families receiving Reach Up

Family Development Plan Overview

- Every adult receiving Reach Up must have a Family Development Plan, which outlines their employment plan, and addresses barriers to employment
- The plan is specific to the individual and a family's unique needs and goals